

CORRECTED VERSION

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
8 February 2001 (08.02.2001)

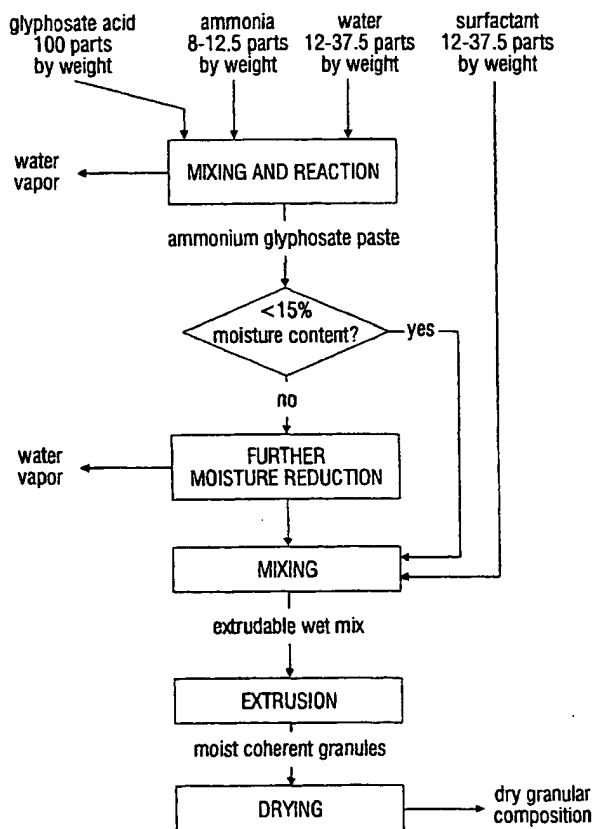
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/08492 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: A01N 57/20, C07F 9/38
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/20485
- (22) International Filing Date: 27 July 2000 (27.07.2000)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 60/146,243 28 July 1999 (28.07.1999) US
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- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR MAKING A DOWNSTREAM PROCESSABLE AMMONIUM GLYPHOSATE PASTE



(57) Abstract: A process is provided for preparing a downstream processable ammonium glyphosate paste, comprising mixing in a suitable vessel (i) particulate glyphosate acid, (ii) ammonia in an amount of about 0.8 to about 1.25 moles per mole of the glyphosate acid, and (iii) water in an amount of about 10 % to about 25 % by weight of all materials being mixed in the vessel, thereby causing a reaction of the glyphosate acid and ammonia that generates heat causing partial evaporation of the water, and forms an ammonium glyphosate paste having a moisture content of about 5 % to about 20 % by weight. A process is also provided for preparing a dry granular herbicidal composition, comprising (a) forming an ammonium glyphosate paste as described above and thereafter, if the moisture content of the paste is greater than about 15 % by weight, applying heat and/or vacuum to reduce the moisture content to about 5 % to about 15 % by weight; (b) thereafter adding to the paste, with mixing, one or more surfactants in a weight ratio of total surfactant to ammonium glyphosate of about 1:9 to about 1:3 to form an extrudable wet mix; (c) extruding the wet mix to form extrudate strands that break to form moist coherent granules; and (d) drying the granules to produce the dry granular composition.

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(84) **Designated States (regional):** ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(48) **Date of publication of this corrected version:**

16 August 2001

(15) **Information about Correction:**

see PCT Gazette No. 33/2001 of 16 August 2001, Section II

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.